OBJECTIVE 3.6 Identify acceptable methods of cornering during an emergency response.

INTRODUCTION

During an emergency response driving situation, increased speeds are to be expected. With increased speeds comes the need for increased skills to drive through turns and curves. The officer should be able to perform a precise step-by-step system for cornering during increased speeds.

CONTENT

The officer should understand the types of corners that are common to highway design. Corners are divided into 3 types:

1. CONSTANT RADIUS - requires constant, consistent steering
2. INCREASING RADIUS - requires sharp to gradual steering
3. DECREASING RADIUS - requires gradual, then sharper steering
4. CORNERING METHODS
    a. Search 12 seconds ahead and evaluate the conditions of the corner being approached.
    b. Start lane position adjustments prior to reaching the corner. Position to the outside or wide position. Avoid oncoming lanes.
    c. Depending on the approach speed, braking may not be necessary. Speed control can be acquired through deceleration, "threshold braking" or "trail braking." See Objectives 2.14 and 3.9.
    d. Begin steering actions while driving towards the apex of the corner. Avoid aggressive steering movements. The apex will be located to the inside or tight portion of the corner.
    e. As the vehicle passes through the apex, the driver should steer the vehicle toward the desired exiting lane position.

f. Acceleration methods and steering adjustments are added at this same moment.

5. Additional Considerations

a. Have speed under control before entering the corner to avoid heavy braking while steering.

b. Select apex location carefully, in accordance to the desired outcome.

c. Use of the travel lane must take into consideration the line of sight restrictions and the legal lane limitations, roadway design characteristics such as surface conditions, crowned roadway, and traffic patterns.

SUMMARY

Any driver can approach a corner at high speed. The true talent is in the successful completion of the cornering maneuver. Through the use of an acceptable cornering method, the officer increases vehicle control through a turning situation. The officer also is able to identify and correct errors in method while cornering before losing vehicle control.

SUGGESTED INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY

LECTURE WITH VISUALS

Using diagrams or photographs to represent each of the steps of the cornering method will help the student visualize the steps.

SMALL GROUPS

Divide the class into groups of 3-6 students. Draw an intersection on the chalkboard. Tell each group to describe how they think an officer should correctly negotiate a right turn at the intersection. Encourage specific, detailed responses. Record the group responses on the chalkboard. Encourage discussion and opinions. Correct errors before proceeding to the practice driving exercises.

RESOURCES AND AIDS

1. Law enforcement driver training textbooks

2. Emergency vehicle operation textbooks

SUGGESTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

STUDENTS

Written or verbal responses to questions concerning cornering methods for emergency response driving situations.

COURSE

1. Observe on-the-job performance.

2. Review agency collision reports for collisions that are the result of improper cornering methods.

Corner Construction and Design

1. Constant Radius
   - Requires constant, consistent steering input
2. Increasing Radius
   - Requires sharp to gradual steering input
3. Decreasing Radius
   - Requires gradual, then sharper steering input